

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

S E C R E T STATE 229157

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION STATE INFO AMMAN, BEIRUT, JIDDA, KHARTOUM,
KUWAIT, LONDON, PARIS, RABAT, SANAA, TEHRAN, TRIPOLI, TEL AVIV,
TUNIS, AND USUN FROM ALGIERS NOVEMBER 20, REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE

S E C R E T ALGIERS 2434

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, AG, XF

SUBJ: ALGERIAN POSTURE AT ARAB SUMMIT

DEPT PASS CAIRO

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH DEPSEC GEN HAMDANI NOV. 19,
HE REITERATED ALGERIAN CLAIM THAT ARAB SUMMIT IS BEING
HELD AT REQUEST OF EGYPT AND SYRIA. (FROM SEVERAL SOURCES
WE UNDERSTAND THAT BOUMEDIENE HAS FELT LEFT OUT OF
LATEST DIPLOMATIC ROUND IN MIDDLE EAST. HE WILL
PROBABLY TRY TO USE SUMMIT TO ENHANCE HIS PRESTIGE AND
ALIGN ALGERIA WITH A UNIFIED ARAB POLICY EVEN THOUGH HE
IS REPORTEDLY "FED UP WITH MIDDLE EAST".)

2. ACCORDING TO HAMDANI, THERE IS NO "ALGERIAN POSITION"
RE TERRITORIAL SETTLEMENT OR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. INSTEAD
ALGERIA WILL SUPPORT WHATEVER POSITIONS ARE ADOPTED BY

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DIRECTLY INTERESTED PARTIES: EGYPT FOR EGYPTIAN TERRITORY,

SYRIA FOR SYRIAN TERRITORY, AND "PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE" FOR PALESTINIAN TERRITORY OR "RIGHTS". HAMDANI SAID ALGERIA WOULD NOT TRY TO INFLUENCE THESE PARTIES TOWARD POSITIONS MORE EXTREME THAN THEY WISH TO ADOPT.

3. HAMDANI MADE IT CLEAR THAT FOR ALGERIA KING HUSSEIN REPRESENTS ONLY THE ORIGINAL TRANS-JORDAN AND NOT PALESTINIANS. HE ADMITTED THAT PALESTINIANS WERE IN DISARRAY BUT THOUGHT THEY WOULD HAVE A UNIFIED DELEGATION AND POSITION AT ARAB SUMMIT.

4. HAMDANI SAID THAT ALGERIA AGREED WITH US THAT A "JUST AND LASTING PEACE" WAS NEEDED IN MIDDLE EAST. ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT BELIEVED THAT THIS WOULD MEAN ISRAELI EVACUATION OF ALL TERRITORY OCCUPIED IN 1967 AND EVENTUALLY A DE-ZIONIZED PALESTINIAN STATE WHERE ARABS AND JEWS WOULD LIVE TOGETHER. HE REALIZED THAT THIS LATTER OBJECTIVE COULD NOT BE A SHORT TERM GOAL.

5. COMMENT: HAMDANI'S DESCRIPTION OF ALGERIAN POLICY IS PROBABLY ACCURATE AS FAR AS IT GOES. ALGERIAN INPUT AT SUMMIT WILL PROBABLY NOT BE "EXTREMIST" BUT NEITHER WILL IT BE "MODERATE". WE DO NOT EXPECT ALGERIA TO PLAY A DELIBERATELY SPOILING GAME AT SUMMIT THOUGH THERE WILL ALWAYS BE RESENTMENT WHEN ALGERIA IS NOT INFORMED OR CONSULTED. IN CENTER STAGE AT SUMMIT, BOUMEDIENE WILL PROBABLY SEEK ROLE AS CONCILIATOR AMONG ARAB FACTIONS AND STATESMAN OF THIRD WORLD. EAGLETON

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